

February 17, 1958

Dr. Harrison Brown  
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Pasadena, California

Dear Harry:

Thank you for your note of the 12th.

I appreciate your concern for the design of the moon experiment. That is precisely why we ought to have the benefit of a number of specialists in different fields. I am reasonably confident that the problem is not an insoluble one though it might take some time to work out. We obviously have no hope of solving it if there is appreciable contamination by an intrinsically useless demonstration first.

The matter has been taken up by the governing board of the National Academy and I am waiting to hear their reaction.

Your point about a "more restrained" memorandum was well taken. I had to push myself to make this one as forceful as it was for obvious reasons. Dean Cowie and I are thinking about writing a somewhat more reasoned note for publication in Science. It might be best not to anticipate that until it is actually written.

I hope that if this project goes any further I will be able to take advantage of your special technical knowledge in many fields I know much too little about. For that reason I am hoping to maintain your interest by this correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/cw